

Security Information

28 May 1952

CAREER SERVICE COMMITTEE

Working Group on Honor Awards

Minutes of 2nd Meeting, 28 May 1952, 10:00 a.m.

Present:



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1. Minutes of the meeting of 27 May were read by the Group.

 called attention to an omission in respect to retroactive service. It had been determined in the first meeting that service retroactive to the creation of CIG should be considered as granting eligibility toward CIA awards. This was re-affirmed and it was agreed that service following a recommendation for a CIA award and prior to the actual presentation of the award must be rendered in such fashion as to be considered honorable. With the amendment noted above, the minutes were approved as submitted.

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2. then presented material pertaining to the statutory authority under which the Medal for Merit was instituted. This shows that the Medal for Merit was established by Congress as a wartime decoration for distinguished civilian service, but that an Executive Order had announced June 30, 1947 as the terminal date for consideration of recommendations for it. explained that legislation would be required to re-establish the Medal for Merit as it was the intent of Congress to create this decoration to recognize wartime services only.

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 had determined that it was the opinion of the Budget Bureau that difficulties would be encountered in efforts to re-establish the Medal for Merit. The Group, therefore, decided that it would be impractical for CIA to request that this decoration be re-established.

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3. The Group then proceeded to consider other awards available for CIA personnel and for civilian employees of the Federal Government. The Working Group recognized the desirability of a national civilian award which would be universally applicable to all Federal civilian personnel for recognition of achievement while employed by the United States government. At present and under the authority of Public Law 600, 79th Congress, the various government Agencies are authorized to expend funds for the honorary recognition of exceptional or meritorious service. There is, however, no common award such as the Imperial Service

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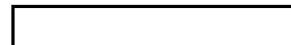
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Order or the Imperial Service Medal utilized by the British to recognize personal achievement in their civil establishment. Existence of such a United States decoration would solve the security problem inherent in a CIA system of awards. In the absence of such a decoration the Group reached the following conclusions:

- a. CIA should establish a national intelligence award in three degrees for presentation to any individual associated with CIA, or to any other person who makes a notable contribution to United States intelligence activities.
- b. That the Medal of Freedom be awarded to those persons affiliated with CIA whose contribution to the national intelligence effort warrants this award.
- c. That other Federal civilian and military awards be utilized for CIA personnel where applicable and feasible.
- d. In realization of the fact that CIA personnel, many of whom have dual status, may properly be considered for an award by more than one United States government element, the Group further agreed that the receipt of an award from another element of the United States government will not preclude CIA from considering the same act as being worthy of a CIA award. CIA, however, will not itself initiate action for more than one award for the same act.
5. The Group adjourned at 1200 with the agreement to meet on 3 June 1958 in 1058 "I" Building. The proposed agenda will include consideration of unit awards, long service awards, title and form of proposed CIA personal awards.

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